



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK  JEWISH CENTER



JANUARY 2020

TEVET—SHEVAT 5780

VOLUME # 96

SHABBAT SERVICES

Vayigash

January 3 | 4:25 pm
January 4 | 9:30 am &
4:25 pm

Vayechi

January 10 | 4:30 pm
January 11 | 9:30 am &
4:30 pm

Shemot

January 17 | 4:40 pm
January 18 | 9:30 am &
4:40 pm

Vaera

January 24 | 4:45 pm
January 25 | 9:30 am &
4:45 pm

Bo

January 31 | 4:55 pm
February 1 | 9:30 am &
4:55 pm

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Marilyn Friedes

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JANUARY DATES

JANUARY 1
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JANUARY 5
JANUARY 9
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NEW YEAR’S DAY
SHABBAT Y’LADIM
6TH GRADE B’NAI MITZVAH INFO CLASS
JNF PRESENTATION
SHABBAT Y’LADIM
MITZVAH CORPS ANNUAL FOOD AND WINE
EXPERIENCE

JANUARY 20
JANUARY 21
JANUARY 23
JANUARY 26

MLK DAY
ANTI-SEMITISM TALK
HAZAK
MEN’S CLUB BLOOD DRIVE AND UNSUNG HEROES
BREAKFAST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY checks made out to EBJC go to Montvale. Sisterhood, Men's Club, Mitzvah Corps, all discretionary funds, 613 event, Pavilion donations all go to Ryders Lane.

FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:

TROUBLE PAYING DUES

If you are having trouble paying dues, please reach out to Marilyn Friedes at marilynfriedes@mac.com. We are committed to helping our families remain a part of the EBJC community when the need arises.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY...

Although Yom Kippur pledges are still coming in, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity. Yom Kippur donations contribute greatly to the running of the synagogue. Dues alone do not cover our expenses. If you have made a Yom Kippur pledge or donation, we sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you have not done so, please consider doing this Mitzvah of supporting and sustaining your community. May we go from Strength to Strength.

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS

CONDOLENCES TO:

Mark Foladare, on the loss of his father, Eugene
Lou Friedman on the loss of his father, Phil Friedman
Joseph Shapiro on the loss of his father, Stanley Shapiro
Sharon Famely on the loss of her father, Martin Gross
Ilene Flug on the loss of her mother, Beatrice Kirshner-Pardo
Carrie Rakvica on the loss of her father, Barry Spurr

MAZEL TOV TO:

Cantor Larry and Laura Brandspiegel on the marriage of their daughter, Samantha, to Avi Sinoff
Lynda Perel in honor of her 10th anniversary as our Preschool Director
Hayley and Alan Migdal on the marriage of their daughter, Jordana Schubert, to Matthew Rosenberg
Joyce and Joel Kaufman on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Herman Golani, son of Rachel and Ike Golani. His sisters, Ariella and Kira, welcome their new baby brother.
Wendy and David Friedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophie Maeve Friedman, to Jenna and Michael Friedman

JANUARY 2020

Board of Directors 1/15

Executive Board 1/6

Genesis Science 1/6, 13, 20, 27

Hebrew Class 1/2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Israeli Dance 1/6, 13, 20, 27

Lunch and Learn 1/8, 15, 22, 29

Mah Jongg 1/6, 13, 20, 27

Talmud Class 1/8, 15, 22, 29

Youth Commission 1/15



THANK YOU EBJC

The following is a note sent to us from David Gelb after placing his mom, Isadora Gelb, in an assisted living facility:

First, she was thrilled to receive the EBJC Newsletter. Makes her feel like she is still part of the community. Plus she was excited just to get a piece of mail in her “new” mailbox that she has learned how to find and open.

Second, she was doubly thrilled with Rabbi Pivo’s recent visit. Again, it made her day and also gave her the feeling that while she is in a new living environment, she is still within the scope of things familiar to her. To someone who has dementia, this is important.

Again, thanks and be well,

Dave Gelb

The Eckstein family wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to the EBJC community for the love and comfort we received after the incomprehensible loss of our wife and mother, Renée. We were overwhelmed by the displays of loving-kindness and supplies of food. We are grateful to have this special kehilla with us at this difficult time in our lives.

BIKUR CHOLIM

As most of you know, the members of the Bikur Cholim committee perform the important mitzvah of visiting members of our EBJC community who are hospitalized in either RWJ University Hospital or St. Peter’s Hospital. While our visits are meant to be a blessing to the patient, they are equally rewarding to us.

In an effort to further serve our community, several months ago we were asked to visit a member of our synagogue who was homebound after surgery and seeking diversion and friendship: Renee Eckstein z”l. Several members of our group visited with her to lift her spirits, but found that ours was uplifted by her spirit in return. Renee was extremely grateful for our visits and we were grateful that she turned to us for support. It is sometimes not comfortable to ask nor is it clear that we are here and can help. So please reach out; it is very important to us.

We would like to continue this mitzvah of visiting our synagogue members while they are recuperating at home. If you are unfortunately in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit from our group or a call, please notify the office, Rabbi Pivo or Madeline Frances, 732-254-2783.

And if you would like to join our group (and we surely need more members), please call me. It is a once-a-month commitment on your time schedule.

Madeline Frances

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

COMING UP IN JANUARY

JNF TALK

January 9 | 8:30 p.m.
Please join us as we hear how JNF is Strengthening the Social Fabric of Israel. This will feature guest speaker, JNF-MAKOM Liaison and Chief Development Officer, Shosh Mitzman. Thursday, January 9, 2020. For more detailed information, and to RSVP, please respond to Beverly Gutterman, at bgutterman@jnf.org or 973.593.0095 x827

MITZVAH CORPS ANNUAL WINE AND FOOD EXPERIENCE

January 11 | 8:00 p.m.
Approximately 20 Carmel wines will be available to taste and enjoy along with Glatt food catered by three Highland Park restaurants.

MEN'S CLUB PROGRAM ON ANTI-SEMITISM

January 21 | 8:30 p.m.
We hear a lot these days that anti-Semitism is on the rise on both ends of the political spectrum. So what do we as the Jewish community need to do about these challenges? Dan Rozett and Jeff Schwartz from Federation in the Heart of New Jersey will come to EBJC on Tuesday, January

21 at 8:30PM, to discuss what Federation is doing, and what we need to be doing. (This program was rescheduled from 12/4.) Please plan to attend!

HAZAK

January 23 | 12:00 p.m.
Featuring a genealogist.

SISERHOOD BOOK CLUB

January 25 | After Kiddush
Next selection is *Enemies: A Love Story* by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

MEN'S CLUB BLOOD DRIVE AND UNSUNG HEROES BREAKFAST

January 26 | 9:00 a.m.

MEN'S CLUB WORLD WIDE WRAP

February 2 | 9:00 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

(Subject to Change)

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2020
MEN'S CLUB/SISTERHOOD ACAPELLA WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 22, 2020
EBJC GALA HONORING MAYOR BRAD COHEN

MARCH 8, 2020
PURIM CARNIVAL

MARCH 21, 2020
EBJC BROADWAY SHOWCASE

MARCH 22, 2020
SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND BRUNCH

APRIL 9, 2020
PASSOVER COMMUNITY SEDER

APRIL 18, 2020
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SHABBAT

MAY 17, 2020
MAH JONG TOURNAMENT

JUNE 6, 2020
GRANDPARENT SHABBAT



RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



During the long winter months between Hanukkah and Purim, we must fight the yetzer hara (evil inclination) that urges us to avoid evening services or to sleep late on Shabbat mornings. The cold outside should not stop us from enjoying the warmth and light of Torah and community found inside EBJC. For instance, the Shabbat of February 8th we read parshat Beshalach, which includes the chanting of the Song of the Sea, as the Torah describes our ancestors' redemption at the Sea of Reeds. That reading provides that Shabbat with a special name: Shabbat Shirah. This year on Shabbat Shira we will also host the Rutgers Jewish a cappella group Kol HaLayla, who will

take part in services erev Shabbat February 7th, Shabbat morning February 8th, and at a special concert following the conclusion of Shabbat on that same night. As it happens, the night of February 7th will also feature our Men's Club/Sisterhood Tu b'Shevat seder. Any one of these is reason enough to come together, but having all of them is really something.

Shabbat Shirah marks the day when we read of our ancestors crossing the Sea of Reeds and permanently escaping their captivity in Egypt. As their pursuers drowned in the sea, they sang a song of their redemption, praising God as their redeemer. This is one of only a few occasions on which we rise when the Torah is read; we do so in order to feel ourselves present at the moment of liberation, reminding ourselves that it was not only then that God redeemed us, but now too, in our own lives as well. That idea is so important that we

include this section of the Torah, Az yashir Moshe..., in daily prayer, so that we begin each day with a reminder of God's power to transform our lives.

Tu b'Shevat originated as the cutoff date for the assessment of tithes on fruit trees; in our time it has evolved into a holiday that celebrates and raises awareness of the natural world from a Jewish perspective.

I look forward to seeing all of you on these special days as we celebrate Shabbat Shira, host Kol HaLayla, and observe Tu b'Shevat. Winter is here, but Jewish life and learning never cease.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo



As we come into the new year of 2020, we look forward to what the future holds for us. We reflect back on the past year and hope for only a more memorable year to come. This past year incorporated many positive changes and transitions at EBJC. The outlook for the coming year is inspiring. The services have an added flavor and I am thankful for the extra participation from both the children and adults.

A few of our congregants and their children have inquired about different melodies of a particular piece in the liturgy of the service. I have chosen to examine this prayer that begins a service and ends a service. A hymn that has been set to just about any tune out there.

The Adon Olam, meaning "Master of the Universe," is attributed by some to Solomon

ibn-Gabriel (1021-1058) of Spain. Incorporated into the Siddur (prayer book) in the fifteenth century, it serves as an introduction to the daily service, a part of the night prayer, a closing hymn for the evening and morning services on the Shabbat and holidays, and a reading at the deathbed (Has V'shalom/God Forbid). According to Moroccan tradition, it is recited at the wedding prior to leading the bride to the Huppah (canopy).

The hymn glorifies the supremacy of God, God's omnipotence, and God's providence. According to the Vilna Gaon, it is fitting to be recited in the morning service because the morning service has been attributed to the patriarch Abraham, who was the first to call God, Adon. The reason for its placement during the night and morning services is suggested by its own text. The ninth line states, "To God I entrust my spirit when I sleep and when I awake."

Numerous congregational settings have been written by composers over many centuries. The traditional tune used in synagogues worldwide is ascribed to the Russian cantor-composer Eliezer

Mordecai Gerovitsch. Over the recent centuries, it has become tradition to use the theme of the surrounding holiday within the text. For example, on Hanukkah, the text of Adon Olam may be adapted to the popular tune of Maoz Tzur.

The form of the Adon Olam is simple. It is a favorite prayer of many. It even fits well to "Take me out to the ball game."

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/ Director of Education

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am writing this just a few days before our Chanukah Laser Light Show. When you read this, it will be a thing of the past.

So I wanted to share with you what it took to get this program into our community. It started when I read an article or email about this company called Wondergy. I found it different, unique and intriguing. I hadn't heard of any other Synagogue doing something like this for Chanukah in our community and thought it would be exciting to bring to EBJC. I did my research. I called the Synagogues where they performed and the overall response was that this was a worthwhile event. So I called the company. When I heard the price, I sort of plotzed and then devised a plan... make this a true community event.

The Membership Committee and Board of Directors are committed to bring more fun family events to EBJC and even more so, offer at least two or three at no charge (our Block Party/Open House is one of them). Unheard of!!! But that's what we wanted to do. In order to make this event free, I had to reach out to other synagogues to be sponsors. I had to sell the concept. I also had to sell the Concept to the Board.

Without enough sponsors, this would cost EBJC thousands (did I mention I also wanted to serve latkes and donuts at no charge?! I promised I would be able to get sponsors and I told them they could have my first born son if I couldn't (just kidding). I did take a chance making that promise and they took a leap of faith in me which I greatly appreciate. But then the pressure was on. Could I get enough sponsors, how much would the arms of the Synagogue help out if I fell short? Oy... That's pressure!

Then the phone calls began. I called at least 10 Synagogues and Hollie Ceramie called a couple as well for me (Thank you, Hollie). The no's started coming in. But eureka, Temple B'nai Tikvah said yes! Whoo Hoo, we were on our way. Then Marlboro Jewish Center, Freehold Jewish Center and Highland Park Conservative Synagogue – Temple Anshe Emeth said yes as well! So I called the Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ and asked if they would sponsor because this was truly a community event not only for East Brunswick, but for Highland Park, Marlboro and Freehold as well...and they said yes! Wonder of Wonder, Miracle of Miracles. But we were still not quite there. Then David Julis said Men's Club would sponsor, and Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry said they would help out of their discretionary funds (because they all believed that this was truly a special event). Although we were still not quite there, I thought if we just ask for donations at the door (in any amount), most people would give a little something and we'd be at break even.

Then there was the organizing of volunteers. That could be a challenge, but some of the members

of the membership committee came through to help in the kitchen and shop (thank you Karen and Taryn). Each sponsoring synagogue provided volunteers to help at the door. People at EBJC stepped up to help out and Leo, Steve and Jose will cover all of our maintenance and security needs (although we did hire two armed security guards).

As of this writing, we have 461 people registered to come on Saturday night. I regretfully had to tell the sponsoring Synagogues and Nicole and Cheryl to not accept any more reservations. The attendance exceeded my wildest dreams!

So there you go, from concept to completion (well, by the time you read this it will be completion). This event truly embodies the spirit of "community". I'd like to thank the Board of Directors, the sponsoring Synagogues, Jewish Federation, all those I mentioned above and probably some that I forgot to mention for helping to make this happen. It took a village!

Be well,
Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Up until now, our articles have been collaborative efforts. This month's article, because it contains some personal observations, is written by Bob Salston.

Since I joined EBJC in 1983, there has been a daily evening minyan. Morning minyan was held at Anshe Emet in South River (who's members would daven at EBJC in the evening). In January of 1990, EBJC began holding a morning minyan to allow Rabbi Rogoff (who had just lost his father) to say Kaddish. Many members of the congregation were recruited to attend minyan one day a week to insure that there would be a quorum each day, and congregants responded. This minyan continued after his year of mourning was completed and many of those who volunteered to attend minyan to support Rabbi Rogoff continued to attend on their selected day. We are now one of the very few Conservative synagogues of our size that has a daily morning and evening minyan 365 days a year. This affords our members a chance to pray communally each day of the year and allows those in mourning or those observing a Yahrzeit to say Kaddish in our own shul. We should all be very proud of this.

Lately however, our minyan has been struggling. Although we have a

small corps of people who attend most mornings and several others who attend on a weekly basis, all too often we fail to muster the required number of people to make a minyan. I never fully understood the importance of a daily minyan until the year that my mother passed away. I attended minyan as often as I could and became friendly with a number of people who had recently lost a parent. Towards the end of my year of saying Kaddish, I attended a shiva minyan at the home of a friend. While speaking to her, she casually mentioned that she thought she would benefit from attending a bereavement group. I suddenly had my "aha moment." Standing and saying Kaddish with others who had lost loved ones at around the same time as my loss had been very comforting, even though no explicit words of shared grief were ever expressed. It was implicit that we were not just honoring the memories of our loved ones, but we were also silently supporting each other. What a shame it would be if we couldn't continue to support those of our members when they need that support the most.

Our community does an incredible job of providing shiva minyanim in the homes of mourners. One recent week we were able to hold 3

separate shiva minyanim. But when shiva is over, we often fail to support those mourners during the subsequent 11 months. We can and must do better than this. We should also hope that those who complete their year of obligation will pay back going forward by continuing to attend minyan for subsequent mourners. Additionally, those observing a Yahrzeit have an expectation that a minyan will be available for them. But unless they help support the minyan on days when they have no obligation to say Kaddish, is it fair for them to expect a minyan when they need it?

Our Religious committee has discussed the issue of minyan attendance on numerous occasions and it has come up with no easy solution. We understand that modern life is hectic and it is difficult to find time for all we need to do. I recently heard a short sermon: Someone, before riding the New York City Subway, inserted his MetroCard into the fare machine to replenish it. The message on the screen said, "Do you want to add more time, or more value?" I am asking our community to appeal to their Yetzer ha-tov, their good inclination, and add more value to their lives by attending minyan. Begin by attending one minyan a month, or maybe one a week (even better if you attend more regularly). You will help sustain our community and will feel the joy of communal prayer.

B'Shalom

Bob Salston bobs@ebjc.net

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



LYNDA PEREL
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

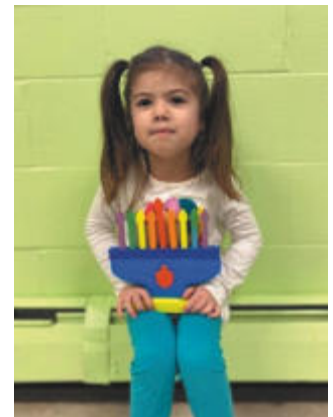


The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

We hope you enjoyed your Hanukkah as much as we did. CEL would like to wish you a Happy New Year!



We are Maccabees so brave so strong and bold!



Morah Lynda gave us dreidels. We had fun spinning them and sorting them by color.



Morah Laura taught us about all different Chanukkiahs and we made our own!

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Dear Keshet Families:

During this month of January, we will have Junior Congregation and Shabbat Y'ladim on Shabbat, January 4th. We will have Shabbat School, Shabbat B'yachad Family Service, and Shabbat Y'ladim on Shabbat, January 11th.

Keshet High School will meet on Wednesdays, January 8th and 22nd. There will be Youth Night for Chaverim, Kadima and USY on Wednesday, January 15th.

On Sunday, January 5th, from 10:15am-11:15am, there will be a second 6th grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent meeting with Rabbi Pivo.

Due to the New Year, Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, and Shabbat School, on the following dates there will be no Keshet classes: Wednesday, January 1st, Sunday, January 12th, and Sunday, January 19th.

Looking ahead into the month of February, on Shabbat, February 7th and 8th, we will be having a special Shira (singing) Weekend. We will be hosting the a cappella group, Kol Halaylah, from Rutgers University. On Friday, February 7th, we will have Friday night services, followed by a Tu B'shvat Seder and dinner with some singing led by our guest singers. Then on Shabbat morning, during Shabbat School, the group will teach our children some songs, lead some songs at the Kiddush, and that night, after Shabbat, there will be a concert open to the community, where our children will have the opportunity to sing along with Kol Halaylah. This promises to be a great musical weekend. More information will be coming.

There is always more happening here at EBJC, so check your calendars and emails for information, and if you have any questions, please reach out to me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

Youth Group Dates

USY 9th-12th grades/ Kadima 6th-8th grades/ Chaverim 4th-5th grades

Jan	11	USY Regional Jr/Sr Prom
	15	Chaverim
	15	Kadima/USY 6:15-7:30
	28	USY Midterm movie night 5:30-9
Feb	31- 2	USY Regional Mid-Winter Kinnus
	12	Chaverim/Kadima Tu B'shvat Seder
	12	USY
	22	Youth Shabbat
Mar	8	Purim Carnival
	9	Megillah Reading
	TBD	USY Regional Purim Bash
	18	Chaverim/Kadima/USY
Apr	1	Chaverim/Kadima/USY
	19	USY 3-5 pm
May	1-3	Kadima Regional Spring Convention
	6	Chaverim/Kadima Year End BBQ
	6	USY
	15-17	USY Regional Spring Convention
	31	USY Chapter Elections and Installation 2-6 pm

Cantor Larry is our Youth Director. For information about any of these Youth Groups, please call him at 732-257-7070, x.3 or send an email to CantorLarry@ebjc.org

Kadima & USY: For more information, please contact Erin Kaplan, Kadima and USY Advisor: ErinKaplan3190@gmail.com

Wednesday Youth Nights: Chaverim meets from 6:15-7:15; Kadima meets from 6:15-7:30; USY meets from 7:30-9:00, unless otherwise noted

SISTERHOOD



Another year is upon us, with new hopes, dreams, goals, and challenges. Why not put “Joining Sisterhood” or “Becoming More Active in Sisterhood” on your list of resolutions. All the positive energy that CONNECTING with like-minded women generates is sure to improve your outlook on life.

THIS PAST MONTH

* On Saturday, December 7 we honored our beloved SYLVIA HALPERN, who recently retired as Sisterhood’s exceptional Kiddush Coordinator. It was so lovely to see Sylvia’s wonderful family surrounding her, lauding the example she has set of extending KINDNESS in all her relationships. We will miss Sylvia dearly, but we know she will remain a vital member of our group.

We are actively seeking Sylvia’s replacement. If you have any interest in learning what this position entails, please contact Margot or Sara for the specifics.

* On Sunday, December 8, EBJC had the distinct honor of hosting the Torah Fund Brunch and Awards for the Garden State Region of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. This annual event recognized those Sisterhoods that have met or exceeded their goals for Torah Fund last year. We were delighted to welcome the many participating

Sisterhoods to our shul. Most of all, we’re proud to announce that EBJC’s Sisterhood was included among the award recipients for our successful Torah Fund campaign.

* On Friday, December 13, Sisterhood and East Brunswick Hadassah jointly hosted a special Shabbat dinner—An Update on the New and Exciting Medical Advances at Hadassah Medical Organization. Dr. Laura Brandspiegel, a pediatrician who is actively involved in Hadassah, enlightened us on all the remarkable progress being made in battling illness.

* The Sisterhood Judaica Shop presented a special Chanukah Sale for Keshet students on Wednesday, December 18 and Sunday, December 22. Everything from menorahs, to dreidels, to books and puzzles were on display.

* Sisterhood, Men’s Club and Membership co-sponsored a festive pre-Chanukah Shabbat Kiddush on Saturday, December 21, featuring scrumptious latkes and doughnuts.

ON THE HORIZON

* Sisterhood’s next Book Club selection is *Enemies: A Love Story* by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Singer was an esteemed Polish Jewish author who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. The discussion for this book is scheduled on January, 25, 2020, following kiddush.

* On Saturday, February 1, Sisterhood and Membership will host an indulgent Chocolate Shabbat. Who could resist an offer like that? Dr. Laura Brandspiegel, a pediatrician who is actively involved in Hadassah, will be our highly anticipated speaker.

DON’T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE WEEKLY TIDBITS EMAIL BLAST FOR NOTICE OF ALL UPCOMING EVENTS!

Please check out our Sisterhood Judaica Shop for the ultimate selection of all your needs—everything from religious articles to books to children’s toys and holiday giftware. And if it’s not there, we will special order it for you! This is the ideal way of supporting Sisterhood with exquisite results.

Make 2020 the year you GET INVOLVED. There are so many programs, activities, and educational opportunities to choose from. Sisterhood has something unique to offer you, regardless of whether you want to focus on worship, social action, friendship, or purely FUN.

Let us show you how CONNECTING through Sisterhood can enhance your year!

Best Wishes for a year of good health and fulfillment,

Margot Julis

magooj1211@comcast.net
732-672-8089

Sara Ullman

tranquil77@aol.com
732-261-0591

The annual Torah Fund campaign is underway with the theme of this year's pin, CHESED (Kindness), one of the three pillars of Jewish life, according to rabbinic tradition. Show your Chesed by purchasing the pin for \$180 or donate ANY AMOUNT. All contributions support the future Conservative Jewish education of our cherished community leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators, and lay leaders—who are all so vital to the knowledge and practice of our faith. Our highly anticipated annual Torah Fund event is a BRUNCH this year—on Sunday, March 22nd. We proudly welcome Dr. Laura Brandspiegel, wife of our esteemed Cantor, to share her experiences as a student of Conservative Judaism.

SISTERHOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop, is your source for beautiful giftware, books, candles, head coverings, children's items and more.

Browse the beautiful collection of gifts, home furnishings and Judaica for all occasions. If you don't see what you are looking for, our Managers will get it for you.

Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713 or Caroline Steinberg 732-735-6641

Gift cards (aka SCRIP) is an easy way to help the Sisterhood raise funds by purchasing gift cards for ShopRite, ACME, Lox, Stock & Deli or Giddy's. What could be easier? You are going to spend the money there ANYWAY!!!

Contact Judy Klotzkin 732-390-6140 or scrip@ebjc.net

Bimah Baskets – for any Simcha...A beautiful basket with food items will be placed on the Bimah prior to Shabbat. A card will let your guests know that a donation has been made in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. You can also order a Bimah Basket for ANY occasion you'd like!

Contact Lory Pelofsky 732-254-6851 or Sheila Behrman 732-238-1476

JNF Trees – to purchase trees-Contact: Diana Horowitz 732-390-9058

Cards, Tributes & Tree of Life - Contact: Bernice Bellows-732-254-4103; Beth Belzer 732-238-7925

Torah Fund – Contact Jody Bramson – 732-390-5166
jlbrams@aol.com

SISTERHOOD NEEDS YOU!!

EGALITARIAN SHIVA MINYAN—Stand up and be counted—literally! Bereaved families now have the choice to welcome either a Traditional or Egalitarian Shiva minyan into their home to join in the reciting of Kaddish. Being a member of the Egalitarian Shiva minyan is a deeply rewarding opportunity for women to demonstrate their compassion toward fellow congregants. You will leave feeling that you have truly performed a worthy mitzvah and made a difference.

BIMAH SITTING FOR SHABBAT AND HOLIDAYS—Enjoy the services from a different vantage point! A Sisterhood member who started sitting regularly says "I've gained an entirely different perspective of the service and I find it even more spiritual". Volunteer to sit on the Bimah, to represent Sisterhood, during Shabbat or Holiday Services. Contact Gloria Jaslow for more information at 732-247-4869 or glorichi@aol.com

KIDDUSH COMMITTEE IS CALLING YOU!!!—We have an amazing group of volunteers who make the Shabbat Kiddush happen each week, but we still need YOUR HELP to keep the Shabbat Kiddush experience going. We need plattering assistance Friday mornings at 10:00AM in the dairy kitchen. We need shoppers to Costco and ShopRite AND we need your financial support of Kiddush. Without your participation, the old-time Kiddush of cake and wine will be making a return appearance! Thank you!

KIDDUSH COORDINATOR POSITION AVAILABLE! We are looking for one or two dedicated people to take over the Kiddush Coordinator position that Sylvia Halpern has held for many years. Please contact Margot Julis 732-672-8089 or magooj1211@comcast.net for more information.

MEN'S CLUB



Even though November was a quiet month, we still had a lot going on. (And that doesn't include overeating for Thanksgiving).

Following up on our Book and Author Breakfast during Veterans Day Weekend, Men's Club donated \$300 to the Jewish War Veterans Post 609 in Monroe to honor the memory of our good friend, Gene Foladare, z'l. On Sunday, December 1st, Howard Jacobs attended a breakfast and meeting, where their Commander acknowledged our donation. I know that Gene would have been proud and is smiling down upon us.

While we were all set to have Dan Rozett, Manager, Community & Israel Engagement of The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey, speak about Anti-Semitism; what Federation is doing about it, and what WE need to do about it, unfortunately we had to re-schedule. The new date is Tuesday, January 21st at 8:30PM. Please make every effort to attend. It promises to be a

meaningful and relevant presentation and discussion. It is free to all and light refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, December 15th we attended the 30th Annual New Jersey Region Dinner, honoring Marc Pearl as our 2019 Man of the Year and Rachel Zeidweg as our 2019 Youth of the Year at our annual Northern New Jersey Region of Men's Clubs Dinner. There was an amazing turnout from EBJC, as we were 30 strong. We cheered as both honorees were called up to receive their awards. These awards are just a token of appreciation to recognize them for all that they do. Yasher Koach to both Marc and Rachel. May they continue to go from strength to strength. Thank you to all who attended and for those who placed ads.

Our ongoing programs include the Yad Shel Chai program. Please see me or reach out to Cantor Larry if you would like to learn to leyn Torah. If you read 18 times, Men's Club will present you with a personalized Yad to recognize your achievement.

We also continued in our "behind the scenes" activities, which included helping to sponsor the Wondergy-Festival Light Show; purchasing book carts for the Machzors for the High Holidays; purchasing a new cart for Kiddush in the Sanctuary; providing Dunkin' Donuts gift cards for our college students for Chanukah and co-sponsoring

Kiddushes with Sisterhood, just to name a few. Your support of Men's Club is needed, so that we can do what we do for the Shul.

Save the date –

January 26th – Blood Drive & Unsung Heroes Breakfast

February 2nd – World Wide Wrap

February 7th – Shabbat Shira/Acapella Shabbat

We have many more programs and events planned, including a Scholar in Residence Shabbat, a bus trip to visit historic synagogues and many more community oriented activities.

We are also working with the Membership Committee and New Era to organize a trip to Yankee Stadium, which would include not only a game, but also a pre-game tour and possibly even their Hands on History. Stay tuned.

If you have any ideas for an event or activity or just about anything, please let me know. We are always open to new ideas and "thinking outside of the box".

If you haven't joined Men's Club - Why not? Dues are only \$36.

Remember, this is OUR community. And this is YOUR Men's Club.

Together we can "Do the Right Thing".

David Julis
doovey920@gmail.com
or (732) 672-7759

Mazel Tov to our Man of the Year Marc Pearl and Youth of the Year Rachel Zediwerg. We are proud of their accomplishments and contributions to our Jewish community. Yasher Koach!





East Brunswick Jewish Center Men's Club

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Phone: (732) 257-7070 ♦ Fax: (732) 257-9630

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November 24, 2019

Jewish War Veterans Post 609
Mr. Jack Kirshenbaum, Commander
97 Leeds Way
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Jack,

Per a conversation you had with Howard Jacobs, it is my understanding that you raise money to distribute to Veterans Hospitals for “wish list items”, and that you are planning a trip to the Jewish Community of West Point. Please find enclosed a check for \$300, which was raised by EBJC Men's Club during a book and author breakfast on Veterans Day, to be used towards purchasing items for this trip. This is truly a worthy cause.

We are making this donation in memory of our fellow member, veteran and friend, Eugene “Gene” Foladare, of blessed memory.

We wish you all the best, and we thank you for your service to our country.

Regards,

David Julis
President



Howard Jacobs presenting EBJC Men's Club
donation to Jack Kirshenbaum, Commander, Jewish
War Veterans Post 609



CALENDAR FOR 2019-2020

(Dates Subject to Change. Advance Notice Will Be Given)

WE ARE STRIVING TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF OUR SENIORS. SIX DATES ARE LUNCHES, TWO DINNERS AND TWO BRUNCHES

Programs will be announced as soon as we complete booking them!

Thursday, January 23 12:00 pm Lunch

Sunday, February 9 10:00 am Brunch

Thursday, March 19 12:00 pm Lunch—Flavian—Mentalist, Mind Reader—Hilarious!

Thursday, April 23 12:00 pm Lunch

Thursday, May 21 6:00 pm Dinner

Sunday, June 7 10:00 am Brunch

Hazak is a program open to all senior citizens 55 and over. Sponsored by EBJC, Federation and Jewish Family Services, we offer interesting and entertaining programming along with a delicious lunch. The suggested donation of \$5.00 for lunch helps to offset the cost of the lunch which often exceeds \$9.00 per person. Hazak is open to people of all faiths, all backgrounds and you need not be a member of EBJC to attend. We do ask that you rsvp to ensure an adequate amount of food (or we will run short). For more information, please contact Ellen Botwin - ebotwin@ebjc.org or Liz Salston - lsalston@comcast.net. Or you can call Ellen at 732-257-7070 x5

ADULT EDUCATION

EBJC offers a full range of adult courses designed for all interests and at various days and times. If you want to learn something that is not currently offered, let us know!

AVAILABLE CLASSES

SHABBAT MORNING CLASS

Saturdays | 9 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Saturday morning class at 9 am, where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat services. Reflecting on the Chumash and ancient and modern commentaries, we discuss the roots of our ancient culture and the timeless values of the Jewish people.

GENESIS SCIENCE CLASS

Mondays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

This class combines a rigorous textual analysis of the biblical verses with knowledge from external sources, including history, science, linguistics and archeology. We meet every Monday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour in the library at EBJC. After more than 12 years, having started from the beginning of Genesis, we are currently in the middle of Deuteronomy. The plan is to proceed in order through the other books of the Hebrew Bible.

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

This class brings to life the voices, discussions and debates of our sages as they formulated Jewish Law based on the traditions and foundational texts received from ancient times. We meet every Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour in the EBJC library. Currently we are studying tractate Kiddushin which concerns the laws of marriage.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Room 8

MONROE LUNCH AND LEARN

Once a month we meet with Rabbi Pivo in the homes of various congregants. These sessions have been very interesting and well attended. Please call Howard Jacobs at 732-402-2273 or at howard_jacobs@ebjc.net for details on upcoming dates, to get on our Monroe mailing list, with questions and to reserve your spot.

HEBREW READING CLASS

Thursdays | 7 p.m.

Focus is on parsha and biblical understanding. A small donation of \$10.00 for four sessions is requested. For additional information about the class, please contact Ora Rotblum at orarotblum@yahoo.com or 732-390-0314.

ISRAELI DANCE

Beginners:

Mondays | 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

Mondays | 8:00 p.m.

Come and stay for as long as you can! \$10.00 per session fee.

MAH JONG GAMES

Mondays | 7 p.m. | Room 9

Come and join us for friendly Mah Jong games! All levels, including experienced as well as beginners, who will be eagerly taught, are welcome.





PURIM IS COMING!!!!

EBJC SISTERHOOD MISHLOACH MANOT PROGRAM IS COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX AND EMAIL SOON!

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF MISHLOACH MANOT (SENDING HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS)

Questions? Contact:



Cindy Rabinowitz [732-390-9781/cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net](mailto:cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net)

Margot Julis [732-390-1245/magooj1211@comcast.net](mailto:magooj1211@comcast.net)

Sara Ullman [732-249-4737/tranquil77@aol.com](mailto:tranquil77@aol.com)

ATTENTION All EBJC Torah Readers!!!



**EBJC and Men's Club are proud to partner on the
*Yad Shel Chai Program***

Leyn 18 times and receive a beautiful personalized Yad
(Rabbi Pivo is tracking each date and Aliyah that you chant)

Join your fellow congregants who have received their Yad –

Scott Alter, Gloria Jaslow, Deena Oren, Judah Landa, Bob Levine, Bob Salston and PJ Smith

**Sign up NOW with Cantor Larry to learn to leyn Torah for your
opportunity to reach CHAI**

Calling all Grandparents and Parents
whose Children/Grandchildren will celebrate their
Bar or Bat Mitzvah in 2020 and 2021.....

Become a Dream Weaver

EBJC Sisterhood has partnered with Neve Shalom Sisterhood "Loom Room"

If you would like to attend a mini workshop on "Making Your Child or Grandchild's Simcha more meaningful through Weaving Together"
contact Margot Julis

Our own Madeline Frances wove a tallit for her grandson, Brandon,
for his Bar Mitzvah on November 9th



After tying the tzitzit, Madeline and her grandson, Brandon proudly showed the completed tallit.



Madeline's beautiful family - Brandon, wearing his tallit, daughter Erin, son-in-law Matthew and granddaughter Morgan.

Have your own "priceless" experience by weaving a tallit,
tallit gadol, tallit bag, challah cover, matzoh cover,
afikomen bag or even a chuppah!

Make an heirloom for yourself, with or for someone special.

Give it a try!! You can do it!!

For more information and to schedule **your** time on the loom, contact:

Margot Julis (EBJC contact) 732-390-1245; magooj1211@comcast.net

Cory Schneider phone: 717-574-1807; corstan65@gmail.com or

Jennifer Bullock phone: 732-906-8565; rnjbullock@aol.com



WANTED: Kiddush Coordinator(s)

Have you been enjoying our sumptuous Kiddushes each week? Then we have the perfect position for you.

Sisterhood is seeking a new Kiddush Coordinator(s) to take the place of our beloved Sylvia Halpern, who has been in this role so expertly for many years.

The ideal candidate should be very organized in overseeing the entire Kiddush process....from emailing our Kiddush team each week, to assigning a shopping list, to ordering the weekly challahs via email, to supervising the weekly Kiddush preparations (1 hour a week on Friday mornings). The position is being split into 3 areas of responsibility so the candidate(s) will not be working alone as Coordinator.

This is your opportunity to enhance the quality of our cherished time together as a community and to give back to the Synagogue in such an important and easy way. Please consider making a difference.

Contact Margot Julis – magooj1211@comcast.net or 732-390-1245. (Sisterhood is an EEOE).



December 10, 2019

12 Kislev 5780

To All Our Wine Enthusiasts and IDF Supporters –

The EBJC Mitzvah Corps is pleased to invite you to our 4th annual Wine and Food Experience on Saturday night January 11th at 8PM. This year we will have two special guests joining us. The first guest will be Ronni Jesselson who is the Brand Manager for Carmel Wines. He will give a “tour” of the different wine growing terroirs of Israel. He will be joined by representatives from Royal/Kedem Wines who will be presenting wines from the Carmel portfolio of wines. These will include wines from the boutique winery Yatir line as well.

The second guest will be Nir Sinay from the Yashar LaChayal office in Jerusalem. Nir will talk to us and give us a video presentation that will highlight the presence of Yashar LaChayal in many of the grape growing regions where much of the amazing Israeli wines are produced. Yashar LaChayal's presence is represented in these regions by the presence of many Pina Chamot, Warm Corners, that serve the needs of the IDF while on patrol. As many of you know EBJC and the greater East Brunswick community has contributed to the construction of three of these Pina Chamot via the annual Pesach Wine Sale conducted by the EBJC Mitzvah Corps.

Once again, the proceeds from this event will go towards the Ari and Sari Horowitz Fund of Yashar LaChayal to benefit needy soldiers at Pesach. Last year we raised enough money to provide for 200 of these needy soldiers. Hopefully, this year we can do more. Although previously announced that the food would be prepared by Chef Jesse Reitner, due to logistical issues that made this impossible. Jesse will oversee the kitchen for us as we present “A Taste of Highland Park” via the three Glatt Kosher Fleishig restaurants located there. All food for this event will be overseen by a Mashgiach.

The cost of the event is as follows: Sponsors \$90.00 per person, which includes a bottle of wine to take home. General admission will be \$65.00.

We hope you will join us at this great event and support our men and women in the IDF.

Looking forward to seeing you on January 11th.

EBJC Mitzvah Corps

TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2019-2020

LET'S KEEP IT GOING...

**The Torah Fund Campaign invites dedicated women to ensure the future Conservative Jewish education of our cherished community leaders—
rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators and lay leaders**

CHESED Means “Kindness”



The word can also be translated as “lovingkindness,” to convey the deep love that animates Jewish acts of kindness, done without thought of reward.

This year’s Torah Fund pin features a lovely heart surrounded by three circles. According to rabbinic tradition, CHESED is one of the three pillars of Jewish life, along with Torah and service to God. As Jews, we extend this heart of kindness to ever-expanding circles - Family, Community and the World at large.

As Women’s League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, and the State of Israel approaches its 72nd anniversary, Torah Fund embarks on its 78th year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our Torah Fund supporters.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated! With a donation of \$180.00 you become a benefactor and receive this beautiful pin. (Payment plan through May 1, 2020 is available.) Your workplace is also eligible to make a matching contribution.

Order your pin today and receive it in time to bring in the New Year.

Please make checks payable to Torah Fund.

Questions? Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410

Save The Date



**February 22, 2020
EBJC Gala
Dinner Dance
Honoring Mayor Brad Cohen**

Does it seem too early to be planning for the Purim Carnival? Not for EBJC! Plans are underway to continue our reputation of being the "place to go" for Purim! What we need are volunteers! We need planners, crafters, helpers, and anyone that can give some time to making this a very special event for the children (and adults) in our community. Temple B'nai Shalom and Young Israel of East Brunswick continue to be our partners in this community wide event. Please help us out (this event truly does take a village). Call Ellen at 732-257-7070 x5 or email ebotwin@ebjc.org. No job is too big or too small!





DO YOU HAVE A COLLEGE STUDENT IN YOUR FAMILY?

Attention College Students (and Parents/Grandparents):



Even while you or your kids/grandkids are away at school, your EBJC family is thinking about you and them. The Youth Commission would love to send special packages around Hanukkah and Purim to the college students. This is **FREE** for undergraduate students of EBJC members and just \$36 for graduate students and \$36 for grandchildren who are in college or graduate school. Just fill out the form found in the lobby and give/mail it to the Synagogue office or email your student's college mailing information and year of school to cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

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Janet Gurvitch In honor of the marriage of Samantha and Avi
Barbara Kurlan In honor of the marriage of Samantha and Avi
Hayley and Alan Migdal
Mark and Anne Pepper In honor of the marriage of Leah and Jonathan
Ella Rosenthal
Fran and Joel Shafer In honor of the marriage of Samantha and Avi
Sheila and Bernie Solomon In honor of the marriage of Samantha and Avi
Melissa and Barry Wasserman & Family In memory of Melissa's father, Howie Rosenblatt z"l

Joannie & Jerry Weinfeld
In honor of the marriage of Samantha and Avi

GENERAL DONATIONS

Gary & Rochelle Bennett In Memory of Rose Wolitzer
Sara & Jeff Blivaiss for the laser light show
David & Karen Blivaiss
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Myra Lee Cohen In Honor of Sylvia Halpern and Rabbi Pivo for his acts of kindness
William Eckstein In Memory of IMO Renee Eckstein, Bikur Cholim
Martin & Marla Genee In Honor of Cantor Larry and Laura Brandspeigel on the marriage of their daughter Samantha to Avi Sinoff
Sylvia Halpern
Howard & Cindi Jacobs
David & Margot Julis in honor of Cindy and Eric Rabinowitz on the engagement of their daughter, Jodi Erin, to Trevor Williams
David & Margot Julis In Memory of Phil Friedman
David & Margot Julis In Memory of Eugene Foladare
David & Margot Julis In

Honor of Rivka and Marc Borish, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Samantha

Joel & Joyce Kaufman

Judy Klotzkin In Honor of Sylvia Halpern

Alan & Simone Kramer

Roy & Linda Levi In Honor of Brandon Sternthal's Bar Mitzvah, Grandson of Madeline & Joel Frances

Bob & Lynn Levine In Memory of Arnold Meckenberg, US Army

Steven & Leora Meller in Memory of Stanley Shapiro

Ira & Elise Merkel In Honor of Marc Pearl, Man of the year & Rachel Zeidweg, Youth of the year

Alan & Hayley Migdal In Honor of Margot Julis for helping with the auf ruf Kiddush

Alan & Hayley Migdal In Memory of Stanley Shapiro

Alan & Hayley Migdal In Memory of Phil Friedman

Walter Newman In Memory of Arnie Pelofsky

Arthur & Joan Okun

Jerome Pliskin In Memory of Beatrice Pardo

Herman & Anita Price

Richard & Cindy Rollman In Memory of Phil Friedman

Richard & Cindy Rollman In Memory of Eugene

Foladare

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of their continuing relationship with Rabbi Pivo

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Sylvia Halpern retiring as Kiddush coordinator

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Howard Cohen's 65th birthday

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Lois and David Mandell's granddaughter's baby naming

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Marc Pearl being named Man of the Year and Rachel Zeidweg being named Youth of the Year

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Memory of Arlene Shore

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Marla and Marty Genee on the birth of their grandson

Stanley & Gail Rubin In Honor of Edna Sharff on her granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah

Raymond & Adela Sasson

William & Amy Schafer In Memory of Stanley Shapiro

William & Amy Schafer In Memory of Eugene Foladare

William & Amy Schafer In Honor of Hayley and Alan Migdal on the marriage of their daughter

GENERAL DONATIONS (CONT.)

William & Amy Schafer In Honor of Lynda Perel for her 10th anniversary as our Preschool Director

William & Amy Schafer In Honor of Rachel Zeidweg for being named EBJC Youth of the Year

William & Amy Schafer In Honor of Wendy and David Friedman on the birth of their granddaughter

Joel & Fran Shafer

Ronald & Laura Sucher

George & Pearl Sultan In Honor of Marc Pearl, Man of the year

Steven & Sara Ullman In Memory of Eugene Foladare

Gerald & Joannie Weinfeld In Honor of Marla and Marty Genee on the birth of their grandson

Gerald & Joannie Weinfeld In Honor of Hayley & Alan Migdal on Jordana's marriage to Matthew

Paul & Naomi Weiss

Alvin & Renee Wittlin

Asher & Yvette Yama In Honor of Asher Yama & Naomi Yama's birthdays

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Inge Gross

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Mark & Beverly Levine in Memory of Morris Klizman

Howard & Susan Mandel in Memory of Brad Herman

Steven & Leora Meller in Memory of Bernard Meller

Ira & Elise Merkel in

Memory of Sara Toubine & Freda Riell

Sally Needle in Memory of Anne Golembe

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Open Letter — TO THE WORLD

We, the families of the Pittsburgh
Synagogue Shooting, want to thank you for
your support and love over the past year.

Our families lost 11 irreplaceable, beautiful Jewish souls. The sorrow and
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one interfaith, one Pittsburgh, one country, and one world. We are
truly stronger together.

With love from the families of:

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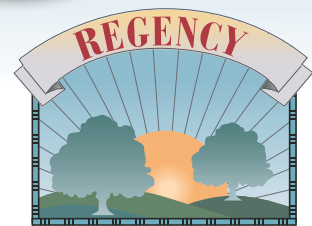
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